

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
January 8, 2009
12:00-2:00 pm
BHRC - 850 E. Foothill Blvd
Conf Rm F119-120
Rialto, CA 92376

Commissioners present:

Gabriel Gonzales, Bill Swift, Christopher Massa, David Ford, May Farr, Michael Hill, Tanya Perry, Tom Rivera, Jane Mercer, Veatrice Jews

Excused absence:

Jane Godager and Susan McGee-Stehsel

Guests:

Allan Rawland, Director; Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Teri Posey, Mental Health Court; Sheila Schneider, S.O.A.R.; Xavier Mancha, Andrew Horn, Kenneth Watkins, Teigyn Henderson, Angelina Alcala, Asia Hayes, Members of TAY Program; André Bossieux, Cheryl Placide, Jatin Dalal, Mariann Ruffolo, Doug Fazekas, Michael Oliver, Michelle Dusick, Charlene Daniels, Michael Knight, Cheryl Long, Kim Rosa, Mariann Ruffolo, Manuel Aybar, Ron Smith, Tim Hougen, Mark Thomas, Doris Turner, Paula Rutten, Richard Hernandez, Andy Gruchy, CaSonya Thomas, Lisa Hamilton, DBH

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Chairperson Ford called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the first Mental Health Commission meeting of the New Year. Self introductions followed. The agenda for this meeting was approved and the minutes of November 6th were adopted as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Ford announced that Annual Mental Health Commission Holiday Tea on December 4, 2008 was a wonderful event. He thanked Commissioners McGee-Stehsel, Jews, Grisotti and Lisha Smith on behalf of Supervisor Gonzales for presenting awards to the recipients.

Commissioner Farr thanked all of our employees and volunteers, both county and contract, who work very hard the entire year.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Gonzales, First District, stated that the Victorville Clubhouse had a Christmas party and exchanged gifts. He also asked Allan if it would be possible for the Victorville Clubhouse to obtain a van for their many events and outings.

Commissioner Massa, Third District, stated that the Redlands Clubhouse is also in need of a van. Director Rawland suggested that both Commissioners check with Bob Sudol, Clubhouse Supervisor, to see if these requests can be accomplished through MHSA funding. TEAM House hosted a Christmas luncheon serving 90 people.

Commissioner Hill, Second District, attended California Wellness Foundation's Conference on Transition-Age Youth in November. Key note speaker, Clarissa Phelps, primarily discussed housing issues. Michael Hill will share the conference material with André Bossieux, Program Manager II, TAY Program. André stated that San Bernardino County TAY programs are far beyond other counties.

Commissioner Mercer continues to remain active in the Homeless project in Ontario where over 200 people were served at a Christmas party. It has been a busy couple of months, with six clients receiving their final SSI award. She has assisted them to get into mobile homes and functioning within the community. The Upland Community Counseling Center has been extremely beneficial to getting clients on SSI.

Commissioner Jews thoroughly enjoyed the Mental Health Commission award ceremony in December. She has attended PEI meetings, assisted with finalizing RFPs and budgets. She has also been working with pastors in the community for the Innovation segment of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

Commissioner Farr attended the DBH talent show (last event of the Triathlon) where a good time was had by all. She also attended the L.A. County TAY Open House. Together we will survive these difficult economic times.

Commissioner Rivera stated that prior to becoming a Commissioner he was not very knowledgeable about mental health issues, however, Allan Rawland, Michael Oliver and fellow Commissioners have been extremely informative. He looks forward to the next 12-24 months with the Commission. He also announced that he will finally become a grandfather at the age of 70.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Allan announced the retirement of Rosa Gomez, Deputy Director of Children's Services, after 30 years of service. He hopes the members of the Commission will be able to join us for the celebration on January 13 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

The first round of interviews for the DBH Cultural Competency Officer were conducted on January 7th. The interview panel consisted of administrative executives from our local contract agencies and the California Institute of Mental Health (CiMH) in Sacramento. Three candidates were recommended for a second round to be interviewed by Allan Rawland, Director, CaSonya Thomas, Chief Deputy Director, two members of the Mental Health Commission and Rosa Gomez, retired Deputy Director at the end of January for the final selection.

County and State Budget

Director Rawland stated that the budget has been dominating our lives. He considers this worldwide issue to be a time of opportunity, creation and challenges. The State owes Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) \$20 million of federal money, which we owe to the county general fund, as they have been paying our bills. To reduce using the department's realignment funds (driven by sales tax and vehicle license fees) DBH has:

- reduced county programs and the contracts of community based organizations
- moved approximately 140 staff paid by realignment to MHSA Full Service Partnership programs
- reduced Medical Services (no after hour clinics or Saturday services)
- reduced number of beds in our Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs)
- continued to work on revenue enhancement

As it stands now, we are heading into FY 09-10 with an \$8 million deficit. Commissioner Ford complimented Allan and the county for trying to avoid employee layoffs.

MHSA

There has been discussion at the State to redirect \$226 million of MHSA (Prop 63) funds, which will require voter approval. We continue to move forward with our FY 09-10 planning and Innovation. The Prevention and Early Intervention and Work Force Education and Training plans have been approved by the State.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selection of Nominating Committee for 2009 Officers: Tom Rivera, Jane Mercer, and Christopher Massa were selected to present the slate of officers for vote at the February 5th Mental Health Commission meeting.
2. Approval to pay FY 08-09 CALMHB/C dues of \$300: Commissioner Swift move to approve; Commissioner Farr second; approval by all. May Farr will provide the invoice to Debi.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

André Bossieux, Program Manager II, stated that Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) programs are designed for youth between the ages of 16-25 years of age to provide them with the skills they will need to function responsibly in the community. He then introduced the following TAYs who spoke of the impact these programs have had on their lives.

- Xavier Mancha
- Andrew Horn
- Kenneth Watkins
- Angelica Alcala
- Teigyn Henderson
- Asia Hayes

Most importantly, the youth stated that TAY programs provide a safe and appropriate place to live and work, and have enabled them to resume their education. List of TAY locations within the county:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Central San Bernardino | 150 members |
| 2. Rancho Cucamonga | 40 members |
| 3. Yucca Valley | 20 members |
| 4. High Desert | 15 members |

The members of the Commission applauded the youth and remarked that it was the most powerful presentation they have heard to date. Chairperson Ford then invited them back in six months to see how they are doing.

Upcoming Special Presentations are as follows:

- February 5, 2009 – MHSA Planning, Implementation and Integration by Lisa McGinnis, Program Manager II
- March 5, 2009 – Full Service Partnerships by Charlene Daniels, Program Manager II
- April 2, 2009 – Integrated Health Care by Paula Meares-Conrad, Assistant Director, Department of Public Health, and Dianne Sceranka, Clinic Manager, Integrated Health Care

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

No reports

DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) REPORTS

District 1:

Commissioner Gonzales stated that the DAC meeting for December was canceled due to three feet of snow in the high desert and the closure of the Cajon Pass.

District 2 & 4:

Commissioner Mercer stated that the last DAC meeting was held at a church in Ontario with attendees from both District 2 and 4, including representatives from contract agencies. Commissioner Mercer also invited a few homeless persons who were referred to Upland Community Counseling after the meeting.

District 3:

Commissioner Massa stated that the DAC will reconvene in January. Michael Oliver, Program Manager II, is planning the meetings. Commissioner Rivera thanked Mr. Oliver for hosting the November 2008 DAC meeting in the Children's Room.

District 5:

Each meeting will move around the district to include other groups/agencies. Michael Oliver will let them know when and where the next meeting will be scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

David Ford
Chairman

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Commission